

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A wire feeder for supplying consumable welding wire to a welding gun, comprising:

a housing;

a wire advancing mechanism connected to said housing for paying wire from a wire spool to a welding gun;

a storage tray formed with said housing; and

a wire spool support connected to said housing and rotatably supporting said wire spool, said wire spool support including: a wire spool support tray, an elevated member extending from said wire spool support tray, and a spool retention member connected to said elevated member and rotatably supporting said wire spool, said wire spool support tray including a base wall, a forward wall extending from said base wall, a rearward wall extending from said base wall in spaced relation relative to said forward wall and spaced apart side walls extending from said base wall and between said forward and rearward walls to define a storage area open on an upper end thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The wire feeder for supplying consumable welding wire to a welding gun, comprising: of claim 1 wherein

a housing;

a wire advancing mechanism connected to said housing for moving wire from a wire supply to a welding gun; and

[[a]] storage tray is formed integrally with said housing adjacent an upper end thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The wire feeder of claim 2 wherein said housing includes:

a rearward housing end wall into which said wire supply spool provides said wire to said advancing mechanism; and

a forward housing end wall spaced apart from said rearward housing end wall, said wire advancing mechanism positioned between planes generally defined by said rearward and said forward end walls, and said forward end wall having a wire guide tube extending therefrom to said welding gun for directing said wire from said wire advancing mechanism to said welding gun.

4. (Original) The wire feeder of claim 3 wherein said tray includes:
a first tray end wall integrally formed with said forward housing end wall; and
a second tray end wall integrally formed with said rearward housing end wall.

5. (Currently Amended) The wire feeder of claim [[2]] 1 wherein said storage tray includes a tray base wall formed in an upper portion of said housing and walls of the housing forming side walls of the tray extending upward from said tray base wall to define a storage area with an open end facing upward.

6. (Currently Amended) The wire feeder of claim [[2]] 1 wherein walls of said storage tray are walls of said housing.

7. (Currently Amended) The wire feeder of claim [[2]] 1 wherein said storage tray includes a storage tray base wall spaced apart from a lower end of said housing, said storage tray base wall and walls of said housing together forming said storage tray.

8. (Currently Amended) The wire feeder of claim [[2]] 1 further including:
a cover pivotally connected to said housing and moveable between an open position and a closed position wherein said tray and said storage wire advancing mechanism are covered.

9. (Currently Amended) The wire feeder of claim 8 wherein said cover in said closed position prevents egress of items in said storage tray from said storage tray.

10. (Currently Amended) The wire feeder of claim [[2]] 1 further including a cover for selectively covering the wire advancing mechanism, said cover pivotal relative to said housing between a closed position and an open position.

11. (Currently Amended) The wire feeder of claim [[2]] 22 wherein said wire supply is one of a canister of coiled welding wire, a box of coiled welding wire and a spool of welding wire.

12. (Currently Amended) The wire feeder of claim [[2]] 22 further including: a ball bearing inlet guide mechanism mounted on said housing for directing said wire from said wire supply to said advancing mechanism.

13. (Currently Amended) The wire feeder of claim [[2]] 22 further including: a wire spool support connected to said housing adjacent [[a]] said rearward housing end wall thereof for receiving a spool of welding wire.

14. (Previously Presented) The wire feeder of claim 13 wherein said wire spool support includes:

a base tray and an elevated member connected to said base tray, at least one of said base tray and said elevated member removably connected to said housing; and

a spool retention member connected to said elevated member and shaped to be received in a central opening of a spool of welding wire to allow said spool of welding wire to rotate freely.

15. (Original) The wire feeder of claim 14 wherein said base tray and said elevated member are removably connected to said housing by bolts.

16. (Original) The wire feeder of claim 14 wherein said base tray and said elevated member are integrally formed.

17. (Original) The wire feeder of claim 14 wherein said elevated member extends from a base wall of said base tray in a direction generally parallel to side walls of said base tray.

18. (Original) The wire feeder of claim 14 wherein said elevated member includes a router portion for organizing and routing cables or wires connected to said housing.

19. (Original) The wire feeder of claim 18 wherein said router portion includes a plurality of vertically spaced holes.

20. (Original) The wire feeder of claim 14 wherein said elevated member includes a gun holder for retaining said welding gun when not used for welding.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) A wire feeder for supplying consumable welding wire to a welding gun, comprising:

a housing including:

a forward housing end wall,

a rearward housing end wall spaced from said forward housing end wall, and

a housing base wall extending between said forward and said rearward housing end walls;

a wire advancing mechanism connected to said housing for moving wire from a wire supply to a welding gun, said wire advancing mechanism positioned above said base wall and between planes generally defined by said forward and rearward housing end walls;

said housing further including a dividing wall extending between said forward and rearward housing walls with said wire advancing mechanism positioned on one side of said dividing wall and a housing side wall extending between said forward and rearward housing walls, said housing side wall spaced apart from said dividing wall on an opposite side of said dividing wall from said wire advancing mechanism; and

a storage tray formed with said housing, said storage tray including a tray base wall spaced apart from said housing base wall.

23. (Original) The wire feeder of claim 22 further including:

wire feeder control mechanisms in said housing between said dividing wall and said housing side wall and between said forward and rearward housing end walls; and

one or more controls on at least one of said forward and rearward housing end walls operatively connected to said control mechanisms.

24. (Original) The wire feeder of claim 22 wherein said housing end walls and said dividing wall form walls of said tray.

25. (Previously Presented) The wire feeder of claim 22 further including a cover having a tray portion closing an open end of said tray and remaining portions that cooperate with said housing to enclose said wire advancing mechanism, said cover pivotally connected to said housing adjacent said housing side wall such that, when open, said remaining portions are remotely spaced from said wire advancing mechanism to allow easy access thereto.

26. (Previously Presented) The wire feeder of claim [[2]] 22 further comprising:

a wire spool support connected to said housing and rotatably supporting a wire spool having wire thereon that is connected to said advancing mechanism, said wire spool support including:

a wire spool support tray having a support tray base wall and side walls extending from said support tray base wall to enclose a storage area on all sides thereof,

an elevated member extending from said bin, and

a spool retention member connected to said elevated member and rotatably supporting said wire spool.

27. (Previously Presented) The wire feeder of claim 26 wherein said wire spool support tray and said elevated member are removably connected to said housing.

28. (Original) The wire feeder of claim 26 wherein said elevated member includes a router portion for organizing and routing cables or wires connected to said housing.

29. (Original) The wire feeder of claim 28 wherein said router portion includes a plurality of vertically spaced holes.

30. (Currently Amended) The wire feeder of claim [[2]] 22 wherein said storage tray is integrally formed with said housing.

31. (Previously Presented) The wire feeder of claim 30 wherein walls of said housing form walls of said storage tray.

32. (Currently Amended) The wire feeder of claim [[26]] 2 wherein said housing is formed of sheet metal.